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Memo

21 October 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: DDI

SUBJECT : Lessons Learned from Taiwan and Middle East Crises

RWK

1. After [] took PB on Tuesday for a moment when you had to leave, GG asked each PB member to think about and speak on Lessons Learned from Q-M and Mid East crises, if any. Each was also to be prepared to suggest whether subject should be presented to NSC, and if so, how.

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3. As for substantive lessons learned, the obvious ones that strike me are:

a. Cultivate the outs as well as the ins (as we didn't do in Iraq); you never know when their positions will be reversed.

b. Don't get into such boxes in the first place (e.g. commitments to Chamoun, not disengaging earlier from Quemoy-Matsu.).

c. Keep the admirals quiet (e.g. Cat Brown).

4. BOTH exercises showed that need is for conventional forces, not nuclear weapons (you recall Seventh Fleet's squawk when told to prepare for conventional attacks around Q-M),

5. ME exercise showed, as I recall, that our lift was stretched close to the limit to get three Marine BLTs, plus one airborne battle group from Germany, to Beirut. We just don't have adequate air, or even sea, lift right now.

Bob Komer
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